

IN THE CLAIMS

Pursuant to 37 CFR §121(c), the claim listing, including the text of the claims, will serve to replace all prior versions of the claims, in the application.

Cancel claims 14 through 37, without prejudice or disclaimer, and add claim 38, as follows:

Claims 1 - 37. (Canceled)

1 38. (New) A system, comprising:

2 a plurality of printers operationally coupled to individually respond to instructions
3 received via a network, each computer of the plurality of printers comprising a controller adapted
4 to determine standby print information indicative of an amount of standby print operations
5 assigned via the network by all of a plurality of discrete sources to a corresponding one of the
6 printers, a memory operatively connected to the controller, and an interface adapted to transfer data
7 between the controller and the network; and

8 a plurality of computers independently communicating by transferring data via the
9 network, each of said computers comprising a microprocessor based controller, a memory, and an
10 interface adapted to transfer data between the controller and the network, each memory of each of
11 the computers individually registering network printer information representative of said plurality
12 of printers, and each controller of each of the computers being adapted to individually complete
13 registration items of network print information, and to respond to the registration by:

14 accessing network printer information registered in the memory of the at
15 least one host computer in response to reception of a command for printing

16 print-data, to transmit a request command to each of the plurality of network
17 printers via the interface of the at least one host computer and the network and
18 corresponding interfaces of the printers to command the printers to transmit standby
19 print information to via the network, determine a minimum-utilized networked
20 printer having a lowest amount of standby print operations from among the printers
21 having standby print operations from the standby print information transmitted
22 from the networked printers to the at least one host computer in response to the
23 request command; and transmitting the print-data via the network to the printer
24 determined to be the minimum-utilized network printer.